

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01

SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 H-02 HEW-06 DODE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 /097 W

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P R 101345Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7754

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJECT: DRUG BILL PASSES SECOND CHAMBER

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 0933; (B) THE HAGUE 1245

1. SUMMARY: A SIZABLE MAJORITY OF THE SECOND CHAMBER
VOTED PASSAGE OF THE NEW DRUG LEGISLATION MARCH 9, WITH
ONLY TWO AMENDMENTS. U.S. INFLUCENCE ON THE DUTCH
ATTITUDE TOWARD NARCOTICS WAS NOTED BY A LEADING NEWS-
PAPER ONE WEEK BEFORE THE VOTE. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE NEW DRUG LEGISLATION IMPOSING HEAVIER PENALTIES

ON HARD DRUGS AND LESSENING PENALTIES ON SOFT DRUGS WAS APPROVED BY A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE SECOND CHAMBER MARCH 9. THE BILL GOES NEXT TO THE FIRST CHAMBER, WHICH IS ALSO LIKELY TO APPROVE IT.

3. ONLY TWO AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED. ONE PROHIBITS PUBLICITY AIMED AT PROMOTING THE SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALL NARCOTICS, INCLUDING CANNABIS, EXCEPT FOR MEDIAL OR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES. (THE AMENDMENT WAS AIMED AT THE WEEKLY RADIO BROADCASTS IN WHICH THE SON OF MINISTER OF HEALTH VORRINK ANNOUNCES THE MARKET PRICES OF DRUGS. JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT, WHO OPPOSED THE AMENDMENT, SAID, HOWEVER, THAT OBJECT OF THE BROADCASTS WAS NOT TO PROMOTE DURG CONSUMPTION.) THE OTHER CONTINUES THE CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR PERSONAL POSSISSION OF ANY AMOUNT OF HEMP PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE CROSSING THE NETHERLANDS' INTERNATIONAL FRONTIERS. THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS INTENDED TO ASSURE NEIGHBORING STATES THAT THEY WILL NOT ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS FROM THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE POSSESSION OF UNDER 30 GRAMS OF CANNABIS FOR PERSONAL USE.

4. THE CHAMBER VOTED DOWN A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD HAVE INVITED THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK CHANGES IN THE SINGLE CONVENTION LOOKING TOWARD EARLY LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS.

5. THE BILL, AS AMENDED, WAS OPPOSED ONLY THE THE CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL UNION, DS'70, SIX MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY (INCLUDING MRS. VEDER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUGS), AND SEVERAL SMALLER PARTIES.

6. THE INFLUENCE OF THE U.S. ON THE NETHERLANDS' ATTITUDE TOWARD NARCOTICS WAS THE SUBJECT OF A NEWS ANALYSIS BY THE PRESTIGIOUS DAILY NRC/HANDELSBLAD ON MARCH 3, A WEEK BEFORE THE VOTE. THE PAPER ATTRIBUTED THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO TAKE STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HARD DRUGS TO MINISTER VAN AGT'S TRIP TO THE U.S. EARLY IN 1975 AND ALSO POSSIBLY TO THE DEA ESTABLISHMENT IN THE HAGUE.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA01310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0947
From: THE HAGUE
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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